

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR UNIQUELY AND PERSISTENTLY IDENTIFYING NETWORKS

RELATED APPLICATION

5 This application is a continuation in part of application serial number 09/557,497,
filed on April 24, 2000, *now abandoned.*

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates generally to computer networks and, more specifically, to
identifying the networks to which a computer is attached.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Computers today connect to and disconnect from networks much more frequently
than they did in the past. Laptops move around among one or more office networks and
the home network. As a mobile computer with a radio network link passes from one radio
access point to another, its network connection is, in effect, dropped and then reinstated.

15 Some computers can automatically sense when they are connected to a network
and when that network connection changes. These computers are called "media sense
aware." Media sense awareness is very useful in many common computing scenarios
because computers, applications, and system services may want to alter their behavior
depending upon the network to which the computer is connected. For example, when a
non-media sense aware computer's link is disconnected from one network and connected
20 to another, an application that transmits secure information may not realize the change
and may inadvertently leak that secure information out onto the new network. Likewise, a
non-media sense aware system service that obeyed the bandwidth reservation guarantees
given by a Quality of Service manager on a previous network may inadvertently violate
the bandwidth guarantees on the new network. Mobile computers are specially sensitive
25 to problems if they are not media sense aware because of their frequent network
disconnects and subsequent connects.

30 Some media sense aware computers, applications, and system services can only
respond to network connect and disconnect events. United States Patent Application
Serial Number 09/652,501, "Systems and Methods for Resynchronization and
Notification in Response to Network Media Events," filed on August 31, 2000, expands
on that basic functionality, allowing response to a broad range of network events.

← *WTF*
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